

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and re-examination are hereby requested.

It is first noted that the references cited in the IDS filed 1/29/2004 were filed with the PTO; however, it appears that they were misplaced at the PTO. Copies of the foreign documents are being presented herewith along with a new reference U. S. Patent No. 4,977,556.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to more clearly point out that the method includes:

passing messages through the message network;
operating the first and second directors to control data transfer between the host computer and the bank of disk drives in response to the messages passing between the directors through the messaging network as such data passes through the data transfer section,

It is first pointed out that these steps are not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

Claims 2, 5, 8, and 16 have been re-written into independent form.

Claim 7 points out that the method includes:

incrementing a pointer or counter in the transmitting one of the directors each time a descriptor is ready to be retrieved from the memory in such transmitting one of the directors;

Such step is not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

Claim 15 points out that the method includes:

incrementing a pointer or counter in the transmitting one of the directors each time a descriptor is ready to be retrieved from the memory in such transmitting one of the directors;
retrieving such stored descriptor from the memory in such transmitting one of the directors;

decrementing the pointer or counter when the descriptor is retrieved from the memory in such transmitting one of the directors;

Such steps are not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

Claim 23 points out that with the method recited in claim 1 the messages pass between the directors through the messaging network as said data passes through the data transfer section. Such step is not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

Claim 24 points out that with the method recited in claim 4 the messages pass between the directors through the messaging network as said data passes through the data transfer section. Such step is not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

Claim 25 points out that with the method recited in claim 7 wherein the messages pass between the directors through the messaging network as said data passes through the data transfer section. Such step is not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

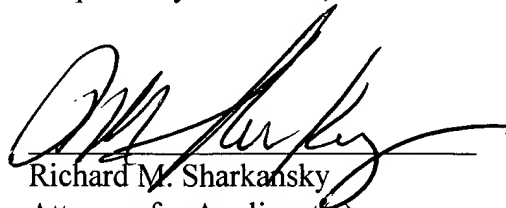
Claim 26 points out that with the method recited in claim 15 the messages pass between the directors through the messaging network as said data passes through the data transfer section. Such step is not described in Chung et al. (USP 6,470,389).

In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

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